

secured a refund of their head tax payment having been in that country less than six months. In 1924, 43,316 Canadians returned under the same conditions. What do the figures indicate? Do they indicate a lack of employment in Canada? No, because a great many of the forty-three thousand odd who went to the United States in each of the years mentioned were eminent gentlemen, high in the business circles of Canada who, it may be with their families, went to California or Florida for a vacation of weeks or months, as the case may be, paid the head tax for themselves and their dependents, and on returning to their homes or places of business in the six months period had the head tax they had paid refunded to them. Yet these are cited by my hon. friends opposite as workmen leaving Canada to secure a job. In reality they were individual citizens of this country so well placed that they could go to the other side to take a holiday for several months.

Mr. MANION: I should like to ask my hon. friend a question in order to obtain information and not with a view to making an argument. Is it not true that people from Canada who go to the United States on a holiday are not entered as going there to live? I ask the question for information because I am certainly of that impression myself?

Mr. MURDOCK: My hon. friend may be right; in many cases that is so. I think, however, that it may depend upon the particular port of entry and how strict the immigration officer is. At any rate that used to be the case in years gone by. I have been through nearly every port of entry on the international boundary, and know something of the conditions. I know that sometimes they charge the head tax even although the person entering the United States says that he is only going across for a visit of a few weeks. Personally I was never charged the head tax, but what I have stated is the actual fact.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I must really hasten along. In doing so I find it necessary to refer to a question connected with the member for Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion). It has to do with one of the most unfortunate episodes that has ever occurred in this House, at any rate since I have been a member of it. A discussion was under way here when my genial friend, with the enthusiasm that characterizes him, talked about one-third of Canada being ready for annexation and being ready to vote for it.

Mr. MANION: May I correct my hon. friend?

Mr. MURDOCK: I am quite sure that the hon. gentleman will not even now change his viewpoint.

Mr. MANION: I do not want my hon. friend to put into my mouth words that I did not make use of. He corrected me a few minutes ago in regard to the statement that I attributed to him wherein he was quoting somebody as saying that there were twenty million unemployed in the United States. Now I must correct the minister in the same way. I did not make the statement that one-third of Canada would vote for annexation; I said it was the statement of an outstanding man whose name was familiar to every hon. member in this House. I did not make the statement that one-third of Canada would vote that way and my hon. friend must not seek to put such words into my mouth.

Mr. MURDOCK: I will read the hon. gentleman's own words which are to be found at page 158 of Hansard:

Mr. MANION: I am not so sure if at the present time a vote were taken in the section of which he speaks it might not carry, due to the terrible conditions brought about by the foolish policies of this government.

Mr. MANION: Wait a moment. Just before that, if my hon. friend will permit me, I quoted the authority for the statement.

Mr. MURDOCK: My hon. friend said on the occasion referred to:

I did not give that as my own statement; I gave it as the statement of an outstanding gentleman in this country—

Mr. MANION: Hear, hear.

Mr. MURDOCK:

—a gentleman whose name is familiar to everyone in the House. He said to me that if a vote for annexation were taken in this section of the country, which comprises one-third of the people of Canada, it would carry overwhelmingly.

Well, let us see what the result of that was. On the strength of a press despatch with reference to this statement going out from Ottawa the following item was published in the Chicago Tribune of February 15, 1925:

Canada Hears Third of Nation Would Join U.S. Ottawa, Can., Feb. 14.—(United News.)—Talk of secession from the British empire was heard in the Canadian parliament last night when opposition speakers, battling with the government, declare that if a vote were taken "tomorrow in an area comprising one-third of the Dominion's population" it would be overwhelmingly in favour of annexation to the United States.

Minister of Labour Murdock told the House of Commons that it was "criminal" for the opposition to bring this issue into the debate. But Dr. Manion,